Internet and the report has also been forwarded to all Ministries/ Departments. Action on the recommendations lies with the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations.

Child adoption

1106. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Muslims, Christians and Parsis cannot 'legally' adopt a child in India; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed for enacting a legislation so that non Hindu parents can adopt a child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Even though there is no general law of adoption in India, yet recourse can be had to the provisions of the Guardian and Wards Act, 1890 for getting oneself appointed as guardian of any minor child of any religion through court: The question of bringing in a uniform legislation on adoption was twice attempted *vide* the Adoption of Children Bill, 1972 and the Adoption of Children Bill, 1980 but could not succeed due to strong opposition from certain communities. It is the consistent policy of the Central Government not to interfere in the personal laws of the minority communities unless the initiative therefor comes from those communities. In the circumstances, as stated above, at present there is no proposal with the Central Government to bring in any uniform law on adoption.

Deficiency in Electronic Voting Machines

†1107. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Engineers have claimed to expose the short comings in the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM's); and

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking seriously the claim of a Chennai based Engineer that tampering with the Electronic Voting Machines is possible?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has informed that one Engineer from Chennai has claimed that he can prove that electronic voting machines can be manipulated.

(b) The Election Commission afforded the said Engineer opportunity to prove his claim to the Commission in the presence of technical experts from the two manufacturing companies *viz.* M/s Electronics Corporation of India Limited and M/s Bharat Electronics Limited but he did not respond to the offer.

Implementation of court orders

1108. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue clear instruction to the State Governments to make sure that the rule of law prevails and court orders are implemented in letter and spirit;

(b) whether Government are aware that decision of the Allahabad High Court on Writ Petition No. 2757 of 1995 has not been implemented by Uttaranchal Government making a mockery of the judicial process;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure that legal propriety is maintained and strict action is taken against the officials responsible for such inaction; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The wilful disobedience of any judgement, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court constitutes a contempt of court under the provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. Further, under article 215 of the Constitution of India, every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

The aforesaid statutory provisions are binding on every body including Central Government, State Governments and all local or other authorities